

Act of 1995”—that would undermine the President’s authority to conduct our Nation’s foreign policy and deny us the resources we need to lead in the world. If this legislation comes to my desk in its present form, I will veto it.

S. 908 attacks the President’s constitutional authority to conduct America’s foreign policy. No President, Democrat or Republican, could accept these restrictions because they threaten the President’s ability to protect and promote American interests around the world.

The legislation would ban or severely restrict diplomatic relations with key countries. Indeed, had it been in effect a few months ago, it would have prevented us from concluding the agreement with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program. The legislation would handcuff our ability to take part in and lead United Nations operations, limiting our choice each time a crisis arose to acting alone or not at all. The legislation would abolish three important agencies, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Information Agency. Each is already making serious and successful efforts to streamline its operations, as part of my administration’s reinventing Government program. Eliminating them entirely would undermine our effectiveness, not enhance it.

In short, the legislation would put Congress in the business of micromanaging our Nation’s foreign policy, a business it should not be in.

This legislation combined with S. 961, “The Foreign Aid Reduction Act of 1995,” would also slash our international affairs budget, which already is only a little over 1.3 percent of our total Federal budget. We use these funds to fight the spread of nuclear weapons and technology; to combat terrorists, drug traffickers, and international criminals; to create American jobs by opening new markets for our exports; and to support the forces of peace, democracy, and human rights around the world who look to America for leadership.

The proposed cuts in the international affairs budget are dangerous and shortsighted. We know from experience that it is a lot less costly, in terms of money spent and lives lost,

to rely on development aid and diplomacy now than it is to send in our troops later. There is a price to be paid for American leadership. But the return on our investment, in terms of increased security and greater prosperity for the American people, more than makes up for the cost. What America cannot afford are the foreign affairs budget cuts proposed in these bills.

As I have made clear before, I want to work with Congress to get an international affairs bill I can sign, a bill that protects the President’s authority to conduct foreign policy, maintains vital resources, and reflects a bipartisan spirit that serves America’s interests. The legislation Congress is considering fails each of those tests. If it is sent to me as it now stands, I will veto it.

Statement on Senate Action on Appropriations Legislation

July 26, 1995

Yesterday’s action by a Senate appropriations subcommittee removing funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy would seriously undermine the Nation’s battle against drug abuse and drug-related crime.

Removal of all funding for this office would severely curtail my ability to sustain a coordinated strategy among some 50 Federal agencies involved in drug control, including supply and demand, enforcement, interdiction, eradication, education, treatment, and prevention. Just when this coordinated effort is showing sustained success, the subcommittee is proposing we go back to the days when the Nation did not have a coordinated drug control strategy.

The Republican majority is already proposing severe cuts in antidrug programs—a 60 percent cut in Safe and Drug Free Schools, which teaches 39 million children about the dangers of drugs, a 26 percent cut in prevention and treatment services aimed at reducing the number of potential criminals, and a 50 percent cut in international antidrug cooperation programs, a cut that could prevent the continued arrests of the world’s top drug kingpins.

Members of Congress cannot tie our hands by cutting effective antidrug programs, kill the very office that coordinates our national antidrug strategy, and then expect to be taken seriously when they criticize the administration for not doing more. It's time instead for the Congress to support our anti-drug initiatives.

Lee Brown, Director of the ONDCP, is doing an extraordinary job focusing the Nation's attention on the need to fight drugs at all levels. He has helped me develop a comprehensive, effective, balanced antidrug strategy and has worked to reduce duplication among those agencies who play a role in our counternarcotics efforts.

As this bill is now constructed, I will not sign it. I urge the full Appropriations Committee and the Senate to restore the funding of this office that is so critical to our battle against drugs.

Proclamation 6812—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 1995

July 26, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On July 27, 1953, the guns finally fell silent over the Korean peninsula. Three years of fierce struggle, costing over 600,000 lives among U.S. and allied combatants, ended with a negotiated cease-fire at Panmunjom. At that moment, in the midst of the Cold War, facing the burden of containing a hostile communist world, America could not yet see clearly all that the Korean War had achieved.

Time and history have cleared our vision. More than four decades later, we look back in awe and gratitude at what our Armed Forces and allies accomplished in Korea. Under the banner of the United Nations, they fought to defend freedom and human dignity in the Korean peninsula, demonstrating to the world's totalitarian regimes that men and women of goodwill were ready to pay the ultimate price so that others might enjoy the blessings of liberty. They helped the Republic of South Korea grow, survive,

and prosper as an independent and democratic nation and a strong friend of the United States. With their quiet courage and stern resolve, American troops sowed the seeds for the triumph of democracy that is sweeping across the globe today.

Now, at long last, we have a fitting memorial to honor the achievements and the sacrifice of our Korean War veterans. From across this country and around the world, these veterans will gather in our Nation's capital to dedicate the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the enduring testament to their valor and generosity of spirit. America honors their service; we remember their sacrifice; and we are forever in their debt.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 27, 1995, as "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day." I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of our Nation's Korean War veterans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:44 a.m., July 27, 1995]

Note: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 28.

Remarks on Signing Emergency Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters

July 27, 1995

Good morning. Before I sign this bill I'd like to thank the congressional leadership from both parties for sticking with this project through thick and thin. Right before we came in one of the Senators said this is the only bill he'd ever seen that was passed